

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled):

Claim 17 (new): A filter device comprising

first filter elements and second filter elements which are substantially hollow cylindrical in shape having inner ring walls defining an inner pipeline and outer ring walls, the first and second filter elements being alternately stacked one above another, the first filter elements having openings in the inner ring walls communicating with the inner pipeline and the second filter elements having openings in the outer ring walls;

an outer housing spaced from the outer ring walls and defining therewith an outer fluid chamber, wherein the openings in the outer walls of the second filter elements communicate with the outer fluid chamber;

an inlet fluid pipeline communicating with the inner pipeline and an outlet fluid pipeline communicating with the outer fluid chamber;

a substantially hollow ring shaped filter material positioned between the alternating first and second filter elements, wherein the first and second filter elements each have upper and lower end faces with openings, wherein the filter material is held between the faces such that there is a flow direction from the inlet pipeline to the inner pipeline, through the inner ring wall openings and the ring shaped filter material, through the outer ring wall opening to the outer fluid chamber and the outlet fluid pipeline;

upper and lower cover parts for sealing the filter elements together with the filter material; and

the end faces of the filter elements each have an inner ring sealing surface and an outer ring sealing surface for sealing the ring shaped filter material therebetween.

Claim 18 (new): A filter device according to claim 17, wherein at least one of the inner and outer ring sealing surfaces of a filter element comprises first and second offset surfaces which mate with corresponding first and second offset surfaces in an adjacent filter element.

Claim 19 (new): A filter device according to claim 18, wherein the first and second offset surfaces are located on the inner ring sealing surface.

Claim 20 (new): A filter device according to claim 18, wherein the outer ring sealing surfaces and inner ring sealing surface have the same roughness.

Claim 21 (new): A filter device according to claim 17, wherein the filter elements, the housing, the cover part and base part are made at least partly made of plastic.

Claim 22 (new): A filter device according to claim 17, wherein the filter elements, the housing, the cover part and base part are made at least partly of metal.

Claim 23 (new): A filter device according to claim 17, wherein at least one strainer is located at at least one of before and after the filter material in the flow direction.

Claim 24 (new): A filter device according to claim 17, wherein at least one strainer is located on the end faces of the filter elements.

Claim 25 (new): A filter device according to claim 24, wherein the filter material is located a distance from the strainer.

Claim 26 (new): A filter device according to claim 17, wherein a tie rod is provided in the inner pipeline on which the hollow cylindrical filter elements and the ring-shaped filter material are inserted, wherein the tie rod is fixed in the upper cover part and the lower cover part.

Claim 27 (new): A filter device according to claim 17, wherein the filter elements have support walls running radial to an axis of the inner pipeline and vertically to the end faces of the filter elements.

Claim 28 (new): A filter device according to claim 17, wherein the filter material has a holding region which has a different composition than a filtering region.

Claim 29 (new): A filter device according to claim 28, wherein the filter material has an edge region which is roughened.

Claim 30 (new): A filter device according to claim 28, wherein the filter material comprises a material selected from the group consisting of ceramic, metal, natural or synthetic polymers, synthetic resin-ion exchangers, polymers of halogenated hydrocarbons, teflon, porcelain, glass, metal, paper, cellulose, felt, leather, asbestos, glass, sawdust, pumice stone, titanium dioxide and mixtures thereof.